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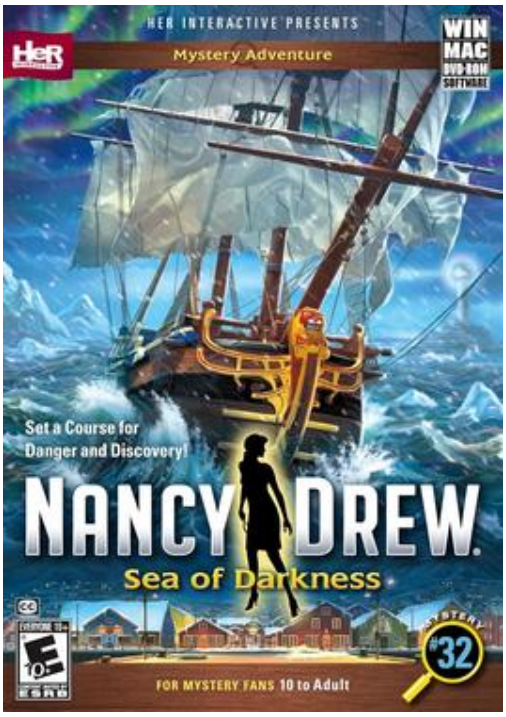
Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness

Sea of Darkness is the 32nd installment in the Nancy Drew point-and-click adventure game series by Her Interactive. Players take on the first-person view of fictional amateur sleuth Nancy Drew and must solve the mystery through interrogation of suspects, solving puzzles, and discovering clues. There are two levels of gameplay, Amateur and Master sleuth modes, each offering a different difficulty level of puzzles and hints; however, neither of these changes affect the plot of the game. It is the last game to feature Lani Minella as the voice of Nancy Drew, and is also the last game to use Her Interactive's proprietary game engine. The next game, *Midnight in Salem*, uses Unity. ESRB rates the game 10+ for mild alcohol reference and violent blood.[1]



Developer	Her Interactive
Publisher	Her Interactive
Platforms	Microsoft Windows Mac OS X
Release	May 19, 2015
Genre	Adventure
Mode	Single-player

Plot

The celebrated ship *Heerlijkheid* is usually the centerpiece of Skipbrot, Iceland's local festival. Now that its captain has disappeared, the renovated vessel has become an eerie distraction. Did Captain Magnus sail away with a legendary treasure, or was he carried off into the night? [2]

Characters

- **Nancy Drew** (voiced by Lani Minella) - Nancy is an 18-year-old amateur detective from the fictional town of River Heights in the United States. She is the only playable character in the game, which means the player must solve the mystery from her perspective.
- **Magnus Kiljansson** (voiced by Gene Thorkildsen) - Magnus is the captain working on the *Heerlijkheid's* restoration. He was supposed to safely steer the ship into the town's port to kick off the Ancestors' Festival, but when the ship arrived, it crashed into the harbor unmanned, with Magnus nowhere to be found.
- **Dagny Silva** (voiced by Katherine Grant-Suttie) - As a renowned treasure hunter and the manager of the ship's restoration, Dagny is furious with her business partner Magnus for disappearing. She suspects he went looking for the gold, found it, and took off, leaving her behind to clean up the mess. Dagny hires Nancy to track Magnus down and bring him to justice.
- **Elísabet Grimursdóttir** (voiced by Billie Wildrick) - A born and bred local, Elísabet helps Soren run the Ancestors' Festival and controls access to the *Heerlijkheid*.

- **Gunnar Tonnisson** (voiced by Gene Thorkildsen) - A grumpy old sailor who yearns for the "olden days," Gunnar is not shy about voicing his concerns regarding the way the festival is being managed.
- **Soren Bergursson** (voiced by Dane Stokinger) - Although Soren grew up ten miles from Skipbrot, he is considered an outsider and is not treated very well by his fellow residents. His vast education and knowledge of all things Icelandic aid in his running of the Culture Center and drive his fascination with local artifacts.
- **Ned Nickerson** (voiced by Scott Carty) - Nancy's boyfriend, who is revealed to be celebrating his and Nancy's anniversary. Ned is always available to provide Nancy with any support or help she might need.
- **Alex Linh Trang** (voiced by Kira Lauren) - Alex is a contact at the Reykjavik Harbormaster's control tower. She and Magnus communicate by radio whenever he is on board the *Heerlijkheid*.

Release

The game was released on May 19, 2015, though pre-orders began on April 14, 2015.

Reception

Merlina McGovern from *Adventure Gamers* rated the game 3.5/5 stars by saying: "an intriguing mystery, strong acting, and a variety of interesting places to explore overcame the lack of proper puzzle integration for me. *Sea of Darkness* may not be the best Nancy Drew adventure in the series, but other than some frustrating progress blocks, I was happy to spend time wandering around a desolate, icy world exploring both the town and its people, uncovering and shedding light on the darkness".[3]

Common Sense Media rated the game 4/5 stars and said: "The last two Nancy Drew games have been plagued by lackluster locations, dull stories, and obscure puzzles, so it's great that Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness does justice to the teenage sleuth. Though it suffers a bit from repetitiveness, it's a good deal more fun."[4]

Just Adventure graded the game A– and found the puzzles in the game "some of the best Her Interactive has created in a long while".[5]

References

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2. "#32 Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness" (http://www.herinteractive.com/shop-games/nancy-drew-sea-of-darkness/). herinteractive.com. Retrieved April 16, 2015.
3. McGovern, Merlina (June 8, 2015). "Review for Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150619012253/http://www.adventuregamers.com/articles/view/28765). *Adventure Gamers*. Archived from the original on June 19, 2015. Retrieved March 1, 2025.
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5. James, Bailey (27 May 2015). "Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness Review" (https://www.justadventure.com/2015/05/27/nancy-drew-sea-of-darkness-review/). *Just Adventure*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20230207015240/https://www.justadventure.com/2015/05/27/nancy-drew-sea-of-darkness-review/) from the original on 7 February 2023. Retrieved 16 June 2026.

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